



Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
 Legislative Committee  
 Meeting Minutes

**WCC Meeting Minutes**  
 Form 8300-026 (R 11/17) Page 1 of 9

<b>ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>	09/08/2018	9:30	Marathon County Public Library, 200 1st St., Wausau
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**I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by	Scott Gunderson at 9:35
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**B. ROLL CALL**

ATTENDEES	Michael Hamm, Kevin Schanning, Colin Crawford, Lowell Suring, Dick Krawze, Al Suchla, Pete Hellios, Harold Drake, Todd Cook, Ronald Fassbender, Tashina Peplinski, Colleen Locke-Murphy, Scott Gunderson, Luke Fuller
EXCUSED	Joel Taylor, Chuck Boley, John Jones, Kathleen Tober, William Howe
UNEXCUSED	Josh Halberg, Melissa Smith
GUESTS	Brad Hopp, Matt Lallamont, Corky Meyer, Carl Schoettel, Susan Oleniczak, Michael Starshak, John Drayna, Jean Voss, Don Holt, Laurie Seale, Brandon Smith

**C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR**

DISCUSSION	Read through Agenda.
ACTION	Motion to accept - Colleen, 2nd - Collin

**D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT**

DISCUSSION	Read through Mission Statement
ACTION	Motion to accept - Colleen, 2nd - Mike Hamm

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	

**II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Citizen Resolutions**

1.	All hunting dogs injured or killed be reported to a veterinarian prior to compensation (410818)	[PRESENTER]
	<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <p>Corky Meyer, Kewaskum, WI Assoc of Hunting Dogs, spoke on the details in the resolution. That the \$702,051 number goes back to 1985 as a total paid out over 33 years. Banning hunting with dogs in the wolf warning areas would eliminate almost the entire bear hunting area. This resolution targets hound hunters only and says nothing of the other hunting methods.</p> <p>Matt Lallamont, Northern WI Hounds Assoc. Believes that the resolution author did not do their research.</p> <p>Carl Schoettel, WI Bear Hunters Assoc. President. Losses are to paid out to ALL domestic animals, and we can't pick and choose. This is an anti-hound resolution targeted specifically to attack hound hunting. Hound hunting is constitutionally protected. APHIS is already doing a great job identifying wolf depredation. And is concerned that veterinarians would incorrectly rule as "dog fighting".</p> <p>Collin Asked if there was insurance available for the hounds, Carl responded "no".</p> <p>Committee was reminded to look at resolutions for whether they are written properly, and are they achievable.</p> <p>Lowell agreed to rejection on the grounds that APHIS is already doing an appropriate job.</p> <p>Tashina pointed out that that there is misinformation in the resolution.</p>	
	<p><b>ACTION</b></p> <p>Motion to Reject - Dick, 2nd Colleen</p> <p>Motion carries unanimous.</p> <p>Motion to combine next three resolutions and reject them by Dick, 2nd by Colleen. Motion Failed</p>	
	<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

2.	Ban the use of dogs on wildlife (131918)	[PRESENTER]
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DISCUSSION	<p>Corky Meyer spoke on the information being false, misleading and inflammatory.</p> <p>Matt Lallemon spoke on the resolution being a mix of misinformation.</p> <p>Brandon Smith, Amherst Portage County, questioned if anyone could come up with any proof that hunting with dogs harms wildlife. Asked for some solid proof that it's harmful, or reject this resolution.</p> <p>Carl Schoettel pointed out that this would affect beagling, bird hunting and hunting clubs throughout WI.</p> <p>Lowell supported rejection based on lack of facts.</p>	
ACTION	<p>Motion to Reject - Ron, based on being unacceptable and unsupported by any facts, 2nd colleen.</p> <p>Motion carried unanimously.</p>	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

3.	Don't reimburse hound hunters for losses incurred in designated wolf caution areas (130318)	[PRESENTER]
DISCUSSION	<p>Jean Voss, author of resolution, showed picture of an injured dog, offered that she had other pictures if we wanted, statute 29.888, reviewed DNR process for a reported wolf attack with maps of areas where the reported attacks are happening and spreading since 2013.</p> <p>Tashina questioned maps.</p> <p>Lowell asked if the numbers had are higher inside the caution zones? No one knew.</p> <p>Pete asked how many dogs had been killed in Clark County in 2017, Luke looked up and found one in Jan and one in Oct.</p> <p>Dick discussed that it is getting extremely difficult to find places without wolf populations to hunt and no hunter intentionally hunts their hounds in a wolf area.</p> <p>Mike brought up that there is no way to control the wolves at this time and that with that in mind, that this is not an acceptable thing to ask until we have a way to manage the population.</p> <p>Tashina questioned how many killed dogs were actively hunting or out in the woods training, Luke only had them listed as "hunting dogs" and "pets".</p> <p>Kevin pointed out that hunters should stop hunting with dogs only where it's posted as a risk area. That we shouldn't pay for someone knowingly taking a risk.</p> <p>Carl Schoettel pointed out that dogs can't read caution tape, and asked why anyone would think that a hunter who has invested in a hound, and loves them would intentionally put that animal at risk. He also pointed out that overlaying the caution areas, leaves almost no where to run dogs.</p> <p>Pete asked Carl whether he wanted to "manage" the wolves or "no wolves". Carl responded that he wanted to see them managed back to the original 85 that was decided in the original wolf plan.</p> <p>Corky Meyer pointed out that the four mile radius doesn't accomplish anything anyways because wolves migrate out of that area. He said that if we want to control this, we need to manage the wolves.</p> <p>Matt Lallamont pointed out that the zones change every year and move around, and there's cattle and pets within these cautionary zones, if we were to stop payments to hunters, then we should stop payments to them also, but that's not feasible because they don't have a choice, so it shouldn't be feasible to do so for the hunters. He looked up the the depredation payments on the DNR websites, and the payments dropped in the years we were allowed to manage the population of wolves.</p> <p>Ron questioned the definition of a wolf caution area, and that it is an informational area only. It is not a legal defined area and to forward this, we would have to add in legislation to legally define that. He supports motion to reject.</p> <p>Scott asked Luke about defining what a caution area. Luke read the definition that is on the DNR website and didn't feel that would be sufficient to use as a "legal" definition.</p> <p>Scott questioned if the resolution was directed solely at hounds and excluded all other hunting dogs. Luke responded that you can not leagaly distinguished be the breeds.</p>	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

B. [DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC]

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	
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<b>ACTION</b>	Motion to reject by Colleen, 2nd by Dick motion passed unanimously.
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

- C. Stop payments to bear hunters for dogs killed by wolves while training or hunting bear (680918)

[PRESENTER]

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Scott pointed out that this resolution was listed separately because it also listed training and not just hunting like the previous resolutions. Carl Schoettel stated that the resolution claims that hunters "Knowingly and willingly put their dogs into a situation and location where there is a high probability that the dogs will be injured..." is just ridiculous
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion to reject by Colleen, 2nd by Dick motion passed unanimously.
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

- D. Change youth hunting age limit to 10 years old (180518)

[PRESENTER]

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Don Holt spoke on his history of hunting and said he is disturbed that we would let babies out into the woods with guns. urges committee to reject. Carl Schoettel spoke about how a 2 year old can't shoot a gun and that you're not going to be able to stop a parent who knowingly registered a deer that a 2 year old "shot", when everyone knows the reality of the story, from making these kind of bad decisions. Scott asked how many other states had a 0 age mentored hunting, the number was approx 40. Brad Hopp stated that deer registered last year were 10 under age 1, 52 under age of 5, 800 under the age of 8. He spoke on the other "age restrictions" on activities in the state, hunting, drinking, driving and school. As a hunter safety instructor, he has yet to pass a child under the age of 9. He pointed out that when this law was brought up, the Hunter's Ed Assoc, DNR and WCC were not approached for input before this bill was passed. Laurie Seale talked about how a few bad apples can ruin this for everyone, and that should not mean that the current law is a bad thing. Harold talked about how he is getting so much push back on this law, he feels that this is something that needs to be put out for public input. Todd pointed out that this resolution is only looking to change acquiring deer hunting license. Scott reminded everyone that the legislature already has spoken on this, and there were public hearings. He believes that this was passed because it was felt that a parent should be responsible for making this decision. Discussion on what age children can "learn" gun safety.
<b>ACTION</b>	Motion to advance by Ron because this was passed without input and that this should be reversed and put on the Spring Hearings, 2nd by Pete. Motion Carries.
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

- E. Mentored hunting rules (560318)

[PRESENTER]

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Brad Hopp, author, asked that this be amended to change to the age of 10 to keep consistent with previously accepted resolution. And to point out that the main difference of this one is that they would like to see mentored hunts reduced to a single firearm. Carl spoke that this should be rejected based on the thought that parents should be responsible to decide when this is safe. Tashina commented that while not supporting the removal of no minimum hunting age, she is fully in support of
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	restricting mentored hunts to a single firearm. Mike spoke fully in favor of this resolution.
ACTION	Motion to advance by Todd, 2nd by Mike. Motion passes
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**F. Raise the gun deer license mentee age to 10 years old (180118)**

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Motion to advance by Lowell, 2nd by Kevin. Motion carries.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**G. Chronic Wasting Disease control (580918)**

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Don Holt pointed out that statewide there were a total of 90 resolutions from 2017 spring hearings requesting changes to the CWD management laws. Laurie Sealle, Taylor County, Deer Farmer, spoke about how it's getting extremely frustrating that everyone keeps pointing the finger at the deer farms. Deer farmers are required to test 100% of all deer killed and of course they find CWD there. And then they test the surrounding area and find more and just assume it came from the deer farm. There are possible current research showing there might be CWD resistant deer. Mike asked if there was insurance for deer farms, Laurie said not to her knowledge. It was discussed that farmers are compensated because it is a state mandated slaughter, Alan asked how are we going to handle testing and research if we don't have captive herds to work with. Discussion on current game farm testing requirements, and that it is the law that any animal that dies on a game farm is required to be tested, even though it is not required for a game farm to participate in the CWD management program. Ron reminded that this resolution has two parts, stopping funding, and limiting expansion. Basically trying to eliminate deer farming. Tashina pointed out that until we require testing of all deer killed in the entire state in all hunting season along with the deer killed in captivity, it is not fair to continue to point the finger at the captive deer farms. Kevin asked for a definition of what exactly is the CWD Herd Management Program. Luke reviewed the details. Laurie clarified that there are financial and logistical reasons why not all farms comply with the CWD Herd Management Program and do not participate. But 100% of all deer that die on the farms, and 50% of all deer killed are required to be tested. Alan spoke on how we are in the process of learning even more on CWD in the near future.
ACTION	Motion to reject Alan, 2nd Tashina. 8 in favor, 4 against, motion passes
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**H. Moratorium on baiting and feeding of deer (480118)**

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Mike pointed out that we have been voting on this issue for the last 10 years and it usually boils down to a rough 50/50 vote, and he would be in support of this if we also banned food plots, and farmers harvesting their fields, because what is the difference? He points out that this is not an achievable bill. Kevin ask for clarification if indeed the state voting was 50/50, because usually congress voting was leaning toward banning. Scott pointed out that this resolution is not written feasibly as it's asking for "until a cure is found" and it looks like that may not be possible.
ACTION	Motion to advance - Lowell, 2nd Kevin. Motion fails. Motion to reject by Alan, 2nd Harold. Motion Carries

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**I. Moratorium on captive cervid operations (550218) [PRESENTER]**

DISCUSSION	Laurie Seale asked that we question the legality of banning forming deer farms, and also pointed out that removing all deer farms is not going to stop the spread of CWD. Carl Schoettel spoke on that the best way to control this is to allow nature to take it's course and allow the deer to breed a natural immunity to CWD.
ACTION	Motion to reject by Colleen, 2nd by Collin. Motion Carries
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**J. Moratorium on new deer farms and hunting preserves (480218) [PRESENTER]**

DISCUSSION	No Discussion.
ACTION	Motion to reject by Collin, 2nd Colleen Motion Carries
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**K. Prohibit baiting of deer for hunting purposes (410418) [PRESENTER]**

DISCUSSION	Don Holt, author, spoke on baiting and its possible effect on the spreading of CWD and the ethics of hunting over bait. Carl Schoettel speaking for the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Assoc stated they are against any bans on baiting in general because baiting is an effective way to get more people involved in hunting. Laurie spoke on how generally people tend to not look at the science. Recent studies show that a carcass is a greater risk to spread CWD. Discussion on the application and interpretation of the science and research behind the spread of CWD. Alan pointed out that the accepted source of CWD is in an area where baiting and feeding is and was banned.
ACTION	Motion to Reject by Colleen, 2nd by Tashina. 8 in favor, 3 opposed. Motion Carries.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**L. Creation of a Sport Fishing Board (280318, 411018, 650118, 680618) [PRESENTER]**

DISCUSSION	Susan Oleniczak, author, went over details on the amount of revenue brought in by sport fisherman. She is asking that the sport fisherman have equal representation to what the commercial fisherman currently have, even though commercial fisherman bring in much less revenue for the state. Mike questioned if she was looking for this to cover all inland and great lakes fishing, and where would the funds come from and who would appoint these members. Susan thought the funds would come from the fishing licenses, board would be appointed by NRB, DNR and WCC. Discussion on what is the Commercial Fishing Board and what they do. For example, they do not have a 3 minute limit when presenting to the NRB. And why sport fisherman are looking for this to be created.
ACTION	Motion to Advance - Collin, 2nd Harold Motion Carries.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**M. Designate the hickory nut as the state nut (240318) [PRESENTER]**

DISCUSSION	Michael Starshak, author, Wisconsin Hickory Assoc., spoke on the history of the hickory nut. They have over 1,500 signatures in support of this. State recognition would help spread awareness. Alan questioned if the recognition would have any effect on the harvest of hickory nuts? Michael answered it would not.	
ACTION	Motion to advance - Pete, 2nd Kevin Carries unanimously	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

**N. DNR and DOT develop safe turtle road side barriers (530318) [PRESENTER]**

DISCUSSION	Ron spoke on how there is already a process in place in Highway review and they are already being used in the north. Dick said that up north they are already required to his knowledge.	
ACTION	motion to reject - Dick, 2nd Ron Carries unanimously	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

**O. Permitting the sale of wild deer fat (681118) [PRESENTER]**

DISCUSSION	Jon Drayna, author, explained the history of the resolution and how using deer fat as a soap base makes a very nice mild soap. Discussion on viability and if the DNR has any concerns on adding this to the list.	
ACTION	Motion to advance - Kevin, 2nd Collin. Carries unanimously	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

**P. Identification for non-motorized watercraft (140418) [PRESENTER]**

DISCUSSION	General discussion on how this relates to the recurring question of licensing non-motorized watercraft. It was agreed that this may address a lot of the licensing concerns.	
ACTION	Motion to advance by Kevin, 2nd Colleen. Carries unanimously	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

**Q. Licensing of persons paddling non-motorized watercraft (130918) [PRESENTER]**

DISCUSSION		
ACTION	Motion to reject - Kevin, 2nd Dick Carries unanimous	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

**R. Increase Wisconsin inland waters trout stamp fee (170318, 180618, 220118, 320318, 630418) [PRESENTER]**

DISCUSSION	Ron pointed out that this is already covered in the fee increase package.	
ACTION	motion to advance by Kevin in an effort to show further support for the fee package, 2nd colleen Motion carries	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

- S. Option for purchasing more than one habitat stamp/ donate money to stamp fund (130818, 200318, 460318, 600418, 641218) [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Discussion on how this is may help bring in needed funds without raising the cost of stamps. It would also allow someone to donate at their will. Scott stated that John Wierzba had called to support this resolution.	
ACTION	motion to advance - kevin, 2nd - Tashina carries unanimous	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

- T. Lower current “elderly” age of 65 to 60 for crossbow users (590118) [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Harold questioned if this is relevant with current crossbow laws. Scott stated that the author, Rod Barkhaus, had called to say that the resolution was probably not proper with the change to current law.	
ACTION	Motion to reject - Colleen, 2nd Harold carries unanimous	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

- U. NRB composition regarding silent sports (130518) [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Luke reviewed current requirements of the NRB.	
ACTION	motion to reject - Ron, 2nd Mike Carries unanimous	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

- V. Prohibit hunters from shooting deer on a property without consent (670518) [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Discussion on how the current laws already cover this.	
ACTION	motion to reject by todd, 2nd harold carries unanimous	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

- W. Reduced rate for senior conservation patron license (720418) [PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION		
ACTION	motion to reject by kevin, 2nd dick carries unanimous	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE



- X. Reinstate requirement for backtags to be worn while hunting deer, bear, and elk**  
(640718)

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Discussion on whether or not this should be advanced. Questioned about if this would get any traction in the legislature. Discussed whether there is a necessity for backtags. Luke mentioned that the warden force is saying that they do not see an enforcement difference by having or not having them. General consensus is that even if this won't have legislative approval, there seems to be enough people that want them back that we should forward as a state wide question to get the full states opinion.	
ACTION	Motion to advance - colleen, 2nd collin Motion carries.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

- Y. Remove mandatory uncocking or encasing requirements of unloaded crossbows**  
(360518)

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Discussion on current specific wording and is it reasonable. It seems crossbows were left out when the current law for uncased unloaded firearms was passed.	
ACTION	motion to advance by Kevin, 2nd by Alan Motion carries	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

- Z. Repeal commercial fishing law (410618)**

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Discussion on the validity of the claims and the feasibility of this going anywhere in the legislature.	
ACTION	motion to reject by ron, 2nd by mike. carries unanimous	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

- AA. Support for license fee increase to fund cold water fisheries (160418)**

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION		
ACTION	Move to advance based on vote for previous stamp fee increase and to show support for the fee increase packages by Ron, 2nd by colleen. carries unanimous	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

- AB. Legislative update**

luke

DISCUSSION	45 bills that became law affected the department. Luke will continue to email updates to committee members. Discussion on the new deer transportation rule.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE



**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

DISCUSSION	Next year's meeting is tentatively set for August 17th, 2019
ACTION	motion to adjourn colleen, 2nd Mike.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED	<b>2:30pm</b>
SUBMITTED BY	<b>[Committee Secretary]</b>
DATE	<b>[Date]</b>